

Monkeypox Intradermal Vaccination

What is an intradermal injection?

- Vaccinations can be given in different ways. Many people know about vaccines that are given intramuscularly (into the muscle below the layers of skin and fat). The COVID-19 and flu vaccines are given this way, usually in the upper arm.
- Vaccines can also be given subcutaneously (in the fatty tissue just below the skin). This is how the monkeypox vaccine JYNNEOS was first given.
- Now, the JYNNEOS vaccine can also be given intradermally (just under the top layer of skin) to people who are 18 years old and older.
- Intradermal injections are less common, but some people may have had one to test for tuberculosis or allergies.

Why is monkeypox vaccine being given intradermally and is it still effective?

- Less vaccine is needed for an intradermal injection, so more people can get vaccinated. Even though the dose is smaller, people have responded to the vaccine in a similar way.
- Research shows that both ways of giving the JYNNEOS vaccine are safe and cause a similar immune response against monkeypox.
- Getting vaccinated against monkeypox with an intradermal injection has Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA, and the CDC recommends it.

How is a vaccine given intradermally?

- Your healthcare provider will use a small needle to give the vaccine under the skin on the inside of your arm, about 2-4 inches below your elbow.
- There will be a pale raised area that you can see and feel on the skin where the vaccine was given, called a wheal.
- Do not apply pressure or push on the wheal; it will go away with time.
- After getting vaccinated, wait at least 15 minutes so your provider can watch for signs of an allergic reaction.
- You should get your second dose of the JYNNEOS vaccine in 4 weeks.
- Even if you got your first dose as a subcutaneous injection, you can still get your second dose intradermally.
- If you have a history of developing keloids, tell your provider. They may suggest getting the vaccine subcutaneously instead.



What side effects should I be aware of?

- Most vaccinations have similar side effects like pain and swelling where you got the vaccine, feeling tired, headache, and muscle aches.
- Intradermal vaccines may be more likely to cause redness and swelling at the injection site. This could last days to weeks; consult with your healthcare provider if it gets worse.
- With any vaccination, an allergic reaction is possible. Your healthcare provider will talk with you about any allergic reactions you have had before giving you the vaccination. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine before.